

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract on page 29 with the following amended abstract:

Systems and methods for electronic trading that provide incentives for gathering orders, making markets, and submitting block orders, ~~and that enable linking of multiple auctions~~ are provided. These systems and methods may first determine if the trader qualifies for an incentive. This determination may be made based upon one or more characteristics, such as price, size, duration, etc., of orders submitted to the trading system by the trader. Once the trader has been determined as being eligible for one or more incentives, the incentives that are provided may include reduced transaction costs, cash payments, ~~priority~~ priority or exclusivity in trading, self execution of transactions, etc. ~~Similarly, before an order is eligible to be traded in an auction that is linked to another auction in the trading system, the order is preferably confirmed as qualifying to be auctioned in such a manner. Once an order is confirmed as qualifying for a linked auction, the auction is created and preferably linked to another auction based upon a characteristic of the order, such as price. In addition to being linked, information from each auction may be made available to traders in the other auctions.~~